First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

"You are not controlling the storm, and you are not lost in it. You are the storm."
-Sam Harris, neuroscientist, philosopher and author, 'Free Will' (2012)

http://www.feelguide.com/2013/08/13/scientific-study-of-separated-identical-twins-discovers-there-is-a-huge-genetic-component-to-faith/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

February 7, 2016 10:00 am

Last Sunday after Epiphany (Transfiguration)

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"** **282 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Tad Wysor

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

****Please rise in body or spirit as you are able***

Announcements Tad Wysor

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Solo** **"**Holy Is The Lamb, by Oletta Adams**"** Cheryll Johnson

Cheryll is a co-worker of Carol's at Madonna U where she is the Special Assistant to the President.

Call to Worship (Responsive) Tad Wysor

Many: **We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.**
We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.
One: Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God.
Our failures become opportunities for learning.
Many: **Let us praise God's name in chorus.**
Let us share in the glory of life. What a gift!
Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

***Hymn** **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** **43 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Exodus 34:29-35** Tad Wysor

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2** Carol Hall

Sermon **"Veiled"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh"** **77 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

- See more at: http://www.fpcshreveport.org/connect/musings/the-lords-prayer1#sthash.J4dOgenY.dpuf

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Responsive) Tad Wysor

Transforming Spirit, who awakened Jesus' disciples on the mountaintop, awaken us here that we may discern the vision you place before us. For we want to share your truth with the world! Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Tad Wysor

Thank you, God, for choosing us to speak for you and to act on your behalf. It is an honor to share with others what you have entrusted to us. May we be faithful in our mutual ministry. Amen."

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

COMMUNING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

***Hymn of Blessing** **"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"** **347 NCH**

Communion Service Carol Hall

Communion will be served by intinction in our chairs.
All are Welcome at the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving Carol Hall

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"We Have This Ministry"** **47 ES**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Feb 7th	Next Sunday: Feb 14th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Hunter Turner
Preaching	Carol Hall	Rev. Regina Jemison
Worship Leader	Tad Wysor	Ivan Harner
Worship Set-up	Wayne Burling	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Ann Marie N-T	Patty Sherwood
Sunday School	Melanie Harner	Anne Marie N-T

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO MEETING: February 7, 2016, immediately following the worship service, we will hold the **Annual Meeting** of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Old business, information, reports and new business will be brought before the Congregation at that time.

Michigan Opera Theatre is coming to Ypsilanti for a FREE Opera Club event!

Learn about opera from those who love it! Please join us for an evening of live music, discussion, and light refreshments as we explore Aaron Copland's rarely performed opera "**The Tender Land**." Michigan Opera Theatre Studio Artists, who fill the lead roles in MOT's upcoming production, will perform selections from the opera and other great mid-century American songs.

Aaron Copland's "The Tender Land" is the quintessential American opera. Copland's music is easily recognizable, and speaks of the American landscape during the Great Depression. It is about a traditional, humble, rural Midwest family suspicious of outsiders and their morals. When two worldly drifters arrive seeking work on the Moss family farm, their daughter Laurie, about to graduate from high school, falls in love with one of them and is torn between her roots and her desire to explore the world.

Thursday, February 18th at 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti
300 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti
Learn more at www.michiganopera.org

BIZET CARMEN Friday February 19th & Saturday February 20th 7:30 pm. At **THE CARR CENTER** tickets $25.00 Adults and $15.00 Students. www.operamodo.com Also at **THE JAM HANDY** 2900 E. Grand Blvd. Friday February 26th 7:30 pm Sunday February 28th 3:00 pm.
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PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

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